



Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

We have read the text about our published article “Autopsy profiles of malpractice cases” written by Kanchan *et al.* We have responded the comments in the following paragraphs.

‘Malpractice cases’ term in the title covers both malpractice claims and proven malpractice cases.

The calculated mean age gives an inaccurate ratio to the frequency due to high number of prenatal death cases (i.e., death of a fetus).

‘Physician’ is used for ‘doctor’ in this manuscript.

The number of the cases and the percentage of the cases are not consistent in Table 4 due to multiple simultaneous inaccurate units in some of these cases.

We do not have Emergency unit physicians in every hospital in our country. Emergency unit cases are usually treated by specialists according to the findings of the preliminary ER evaluations.

‘Practitioner’ is used for ‘general practitioner’ in Table 5.

“Contrary to literature, the medical malpractice rate was higher in patients with prolonged hospitalization” sentence supported the following references at the beginning of the paragraph.

5. Cameron HM, Mc Googan E, Watson H. Necropsy: a yard-stick for clinical diagnosis. *Br Med J* 1980; **281**:985–8.
6. Goldman L, Sayson R, Robbins S, Cohn LH, Bettmann M, Weisberg M. The value of the autopsy in three medical eras. *N Engl J Med* 1983; **308**:1000–05.

The Table 3 includes duration of hospitalization in all cases. The statement ‘for cases deceasing in the first 24 h, the rate of

medical malpractice was 36%, while for the ones living for 21 days and over, this rate was 22%’ is included in the proven malpractice cases.

Misdiagnosis is not always followed by mistreatment. There are misdiagnosis cases in the literature, which are not concluded with mistreatment.

3. Andrews LB, Stocking C, Krizek T, Gottlieb L, Krizek C, Vargish T, Siegler M. An Alternative strategy for studying adverse events in medical care. *Lancet* 1997, **349**:309–13.

Conflict of interest

There is no conflict of interest related to this article.

Isil Pakis*

Acibadem University School of Medicine, Gulsuyu mah.
Fevzi Cakmak cad. Divan sok. No.1 34848 Maltepe-Istanbul,
Turkey

* Corresponding author: Tel.: +90 216 458 08 08/870;
fax: +90 0216 589 84 85.
E-mail address: isilpakis@yahoo.com

Nesime Yayci, Oguz Polat
Marmara University Medical Faculty,
Forensic Medicine Department, Istanbul, Turkey

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